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For Immediate Release:

NCDMPH Releases Conference Report on Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Education

Bethesda, MD – The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) has released the *Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Curriculum Development Conference Report*, a summary of the proceedings, outcomes and next steps that were intended as the first step toward establishing a role-specific, competency-based, pediatric disaster preparedness education and training program.

The conference, held March 8-9, 2011, in Bethesda, Maryland, brought together world-renowned pediatricians, surgeons, nurses and emergency responders to begin to address the unmet education and training needs of medical responders who care for children in a disaster. Specifically, role-specific recommendations were discussed for personnel who would be characterized as “Ambulatory Care Clinicians,” “Emergency Department Hospital Staff” or “EMS First Responders.”

The report outlines the objectives accomplished, including the identification of the many health care provider roles that need to be trained, the priority of their training and the preliminary curriculum recommendations for the three previously mentioned personnel categories.

“The initial effort by the conference attendees was absolutely phenomenal,” said Kandra Strauss-Riggs, academic joint program coordinator and conference co-chair. “These templates and recommendations give us a solid foundation for accomplishing our goal of developing an education and training program designed to improve the safety and health of children during a disaster.”

To read the full report and learn more about the NCDMPH’s work, visit <http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu>.

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About NCDMPH:

Created by Presidential Directive HSPD-21 in 2008, the NCDMPH has been charged with “leading Federal efforts to develop and propagate core curricula, training and research related to medicine and public health in disaster” by serving the U.S. government as an academic home for the development and dissemination of this information. The NCDMPH is supported by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the nation’s only federal health sciences university.

About the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Located on the grounds of Bethesda’s National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health, USU is the nation’s federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The university educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service, who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the 4,546 physician alumni, more than 75 percent currently serve on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and U.S. Public Health Service. Additionally, many alumni are assigned to provide medical support to Marine Corps and Coast Guard units.